

THE COLLECTED ADVENTURES

Written and Drawn by



additional strips by OLIVER FREY

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Fusion Retro Books 2020
Jetman was first published as a serial
comic-strip in CRASH Magazine (Newsfield Ltd)
between 1984 and 1991.

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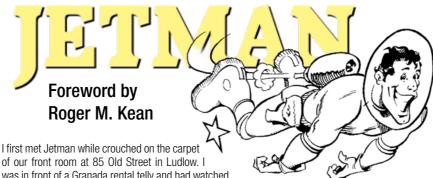
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Art clean-up: Roger M. Kean Additional pages 94,95, 96 by Oliver Frey

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of our front room at 85 Old Street in Ludlow. I was in front of a Granada rental telly and had watched the ZX Spectrum game loading process with the usual tension of whether or not we'd make it to the actual game. *Jetpac* hit the mail order shelves before the first issue of CRASH, but received a brief ecstatic review in issue one's mammoth games round-up (February 1984). 'There's not much can be said about Ultimate that hasn't already been said,' I wrote.

CRASH enjoyed a good relationship with Ashby Computer Graphics Ltd, better known as Ultimate Play The Game, and I spoke on the phone several times with ACG's bosses, Chris and Tim Stamper, unaware of the honour, since the Stampers and Ultimate's staff rarely if ever spoke to journalists. Ultimate was the first major software house to support CRASH with extensive advertising campaigns, t-shirt and baseball cap give-aways and competitions that left all the other computer games magazines of the day lunar-green with envy.

With the *Lunar Jetman* sequel Tim Stamper devised a crazy idea: if Ultimate paid an artist to come up with a Jetman comic-strip, would we print it as a serial every issue? Would we? Of course we would! And so Jetman made his debut in issue 6 (July 1984).

Tim had seen the work of John Richardson in magazines and commissioned the strip from him. If his creation bore little (actually no) relation to the hero of the games that's because the artist never played Lunar Jetman — he didn't own a Spectrum. Excited at the prospect of an Ultimate-sponsored comic-strip, the (then still) few CRASH staffers were expecting something more along the lines of Oliver Frey's Terminal Man and were somewhat taken aback by John's Loony Jetman.

It went down a storm okay, but baffled us for the obvious fact that it kind of rubbished Ultimate's



game-perfection ethos. The page arrived from John as a print-ready bromide that just needed sticking down on its allocated layout page, but before doing so I rang Ultimate to ask the Stamper brothers if they had actually seen the story and was it okay to print it. And that was the thing — so confident were they of the qual-

ity of their games that they felt making fun of Jetman would only help sales. They had no fear of taking the piss out of their character. Worse still — or better, de-

pending on your viewpoint — the central theme of *Jetman* is that everyone (indeed, everything) is constantly trying to get rid of him — preferably permanently.

Jetman was by no means John Richardson's first or only commission. As Lee Paddon reported in CRASH issue 37 he had on his hands *Tina Tailpipe*, a strip in SUPER BIKE, a Greek god-like character called *Twong* and a *Famous Five* strip for an Enid Blyton fan-

zine. Well before Jetman, John drew the Phantom of Fells in BUNTY and The Mean Arena for 2000AD, which he also wrote. Like CRASH artist Oliver Frey, Frank Bellamy's work for EAGLE comic, which included among other strips Dan Dare and Fraser of Africa, was a major early influence on John (though the humour is all his own).



His output was prodigious. With barely any slips over seven and a half years, John produced more than 90 pages of *Jetman* in black and white and later in colour (issue 57 was only one slip in the schedule, which Jon managed to fill at the last moment with a full-page apology about missing 'Possman Pat', which appears coloured up on page 81 of this Collection). There is, sadly, no real conclusion to Jetman's mad adventures for the simple reason that when Newsfield shut its doors and Impact Magazines took over CRASH, the owning Europress Group never allowed for his inclusion and with the connection to Ultimate also lost, Jetman finally laid down his Eye of Oktup forever. Though not quite. For the CRASH Annual 2018, Oliver Frey created a new page (94) and has since penned two more (95-96) which attempt to bring the story to a (happy ever after) ending. Well ... sort of.

The stories are reproduced here as they appeared in CRASH, black and white or colour, though in slightly reduced format. Unfortunately, none of the originals or the bromides sent to CRASH has survived, which has meant scanning from the printed page. While every effort has been made to ensure the best possible quality, in some instances we were at the mercy of the web-offset printing processes of the 1980s, which affected some of the colour reproduction.

However, in spite of that and the passage of time, John Richardson's zany, paranoid, irreverent, Ultimate inventiveness remains irrepressible. ■

























AN' HE WON'T BE ALONE!

































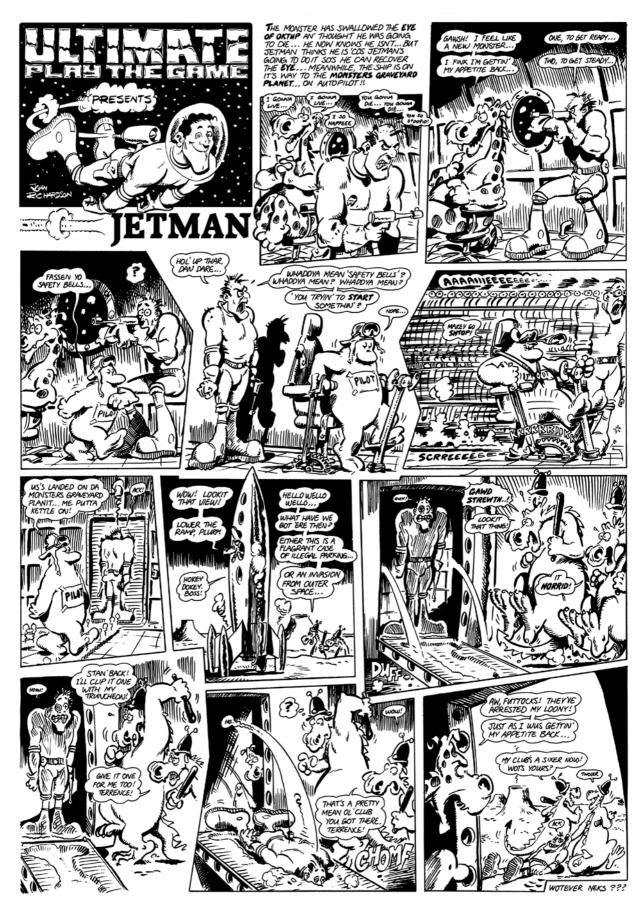








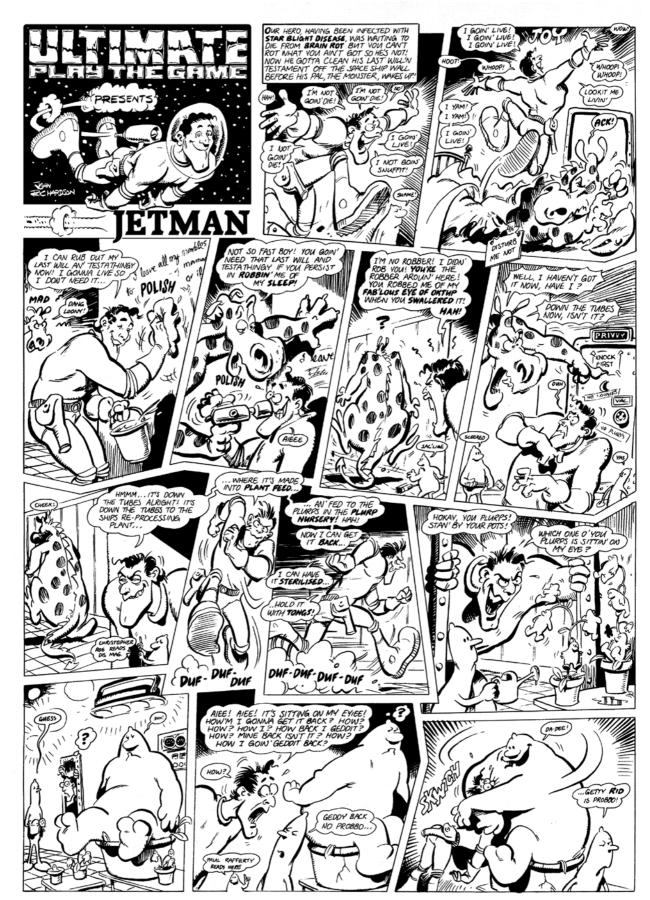




























WILESS ONE OF 'EM IS A DINGBAT

POW-POW PARM

REST THE EYE OF ONTUP. SCUIFFED IN THE FRACAS... STARTS TO ALOW!!

POW-POW PARM

REST THE EYE OF ONTUP. SCUIFFED IN THE FRACAS... STARTS TO ALOW!!

REST THE EYE OF ONTUP. SCUIFFED IN THE FRACAS... STARTS TO ALOW!!

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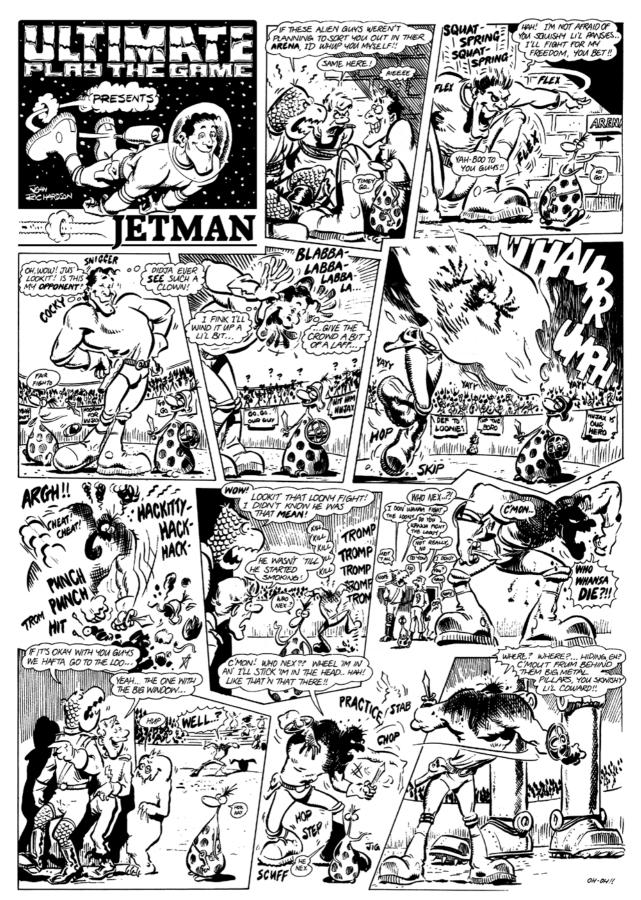
REST THE EYE OF ONTUP. SCUIFFED IN THE EYE OF ONTUP. SCUIFFED IN THE FRACAS... STARTS TO ALOW!!

REST THE EYE OF ONTUP. SCUIFFED IN THE FRACAS... STARTS TO ALOW!!

REST THE EYE OF ONTUP. SCUIFFED IN THE EYE OF ONT

WHAT THE EYE SEES FOR HIS FUTURE ... BOGGED OUT, MAN!!











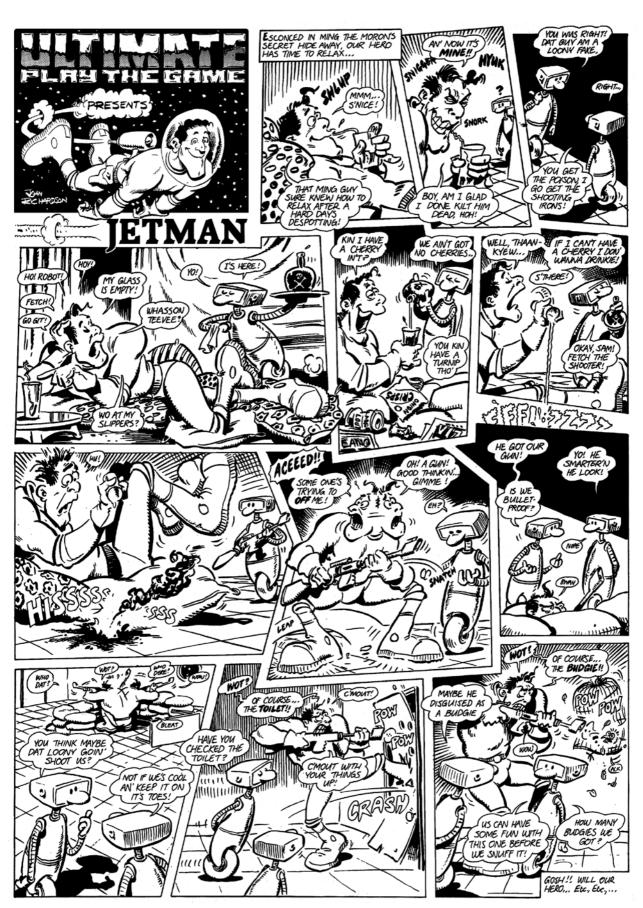










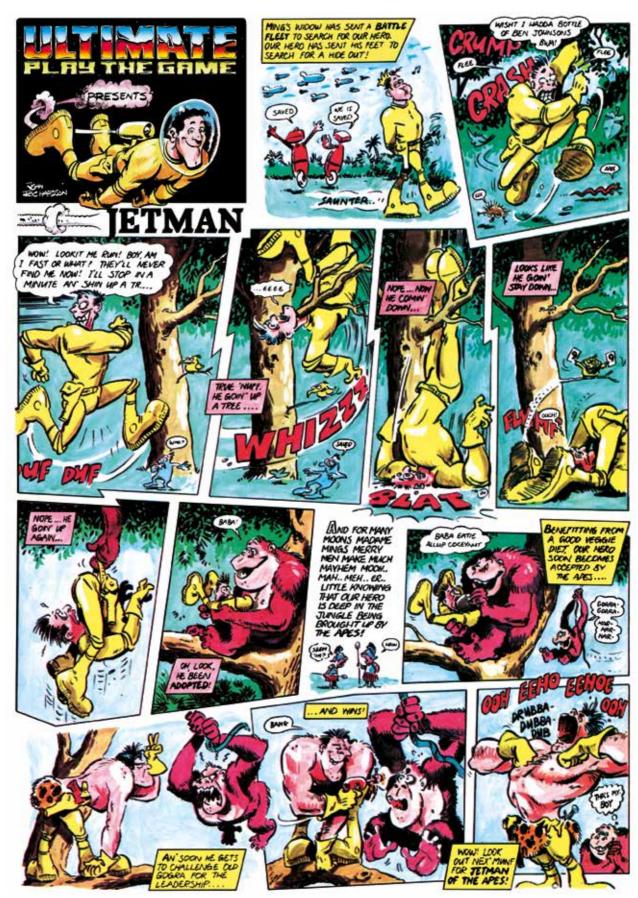








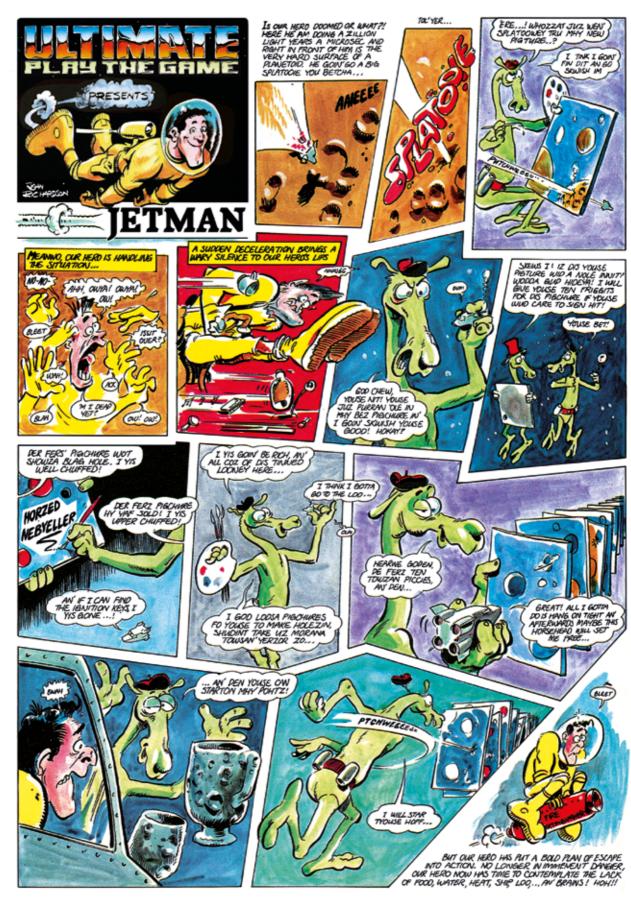








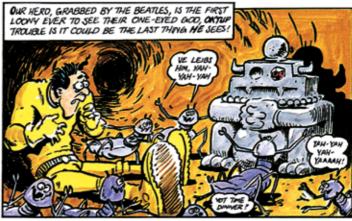




















OLR HERO NOW HAS BOTH THE FABULOUS EYE'S OF OKTUP. BOY, IS HE POWERFUL... ...IS HE MIGHTY... IS HE STRANDED...??



















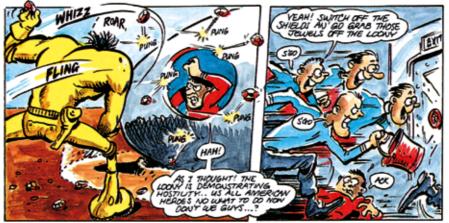
CAP'N! A LIGHT HAS JUST APPEARED ON THE PLANET BELOW AND THERE ARE SIGNS OF ALMOST HUMAN LIFE!

AS I OPENED A CHANNEL, CAPAN, AND IT SAID BOSH ... BOSH SH?

RED ALERT! ACTION
STATIONS! UP SHIELDS HAM
PHASERS. THIS IS OUR BEST
CHANKE, SPIKK. TO BE HEXE
WHERE NO MAN HAS EVER
BEEN... TO CONTACT AUEN
LIFE FORMS...

TO GET HYSTERICAL AN'
GO KILL THE BUGGERS!



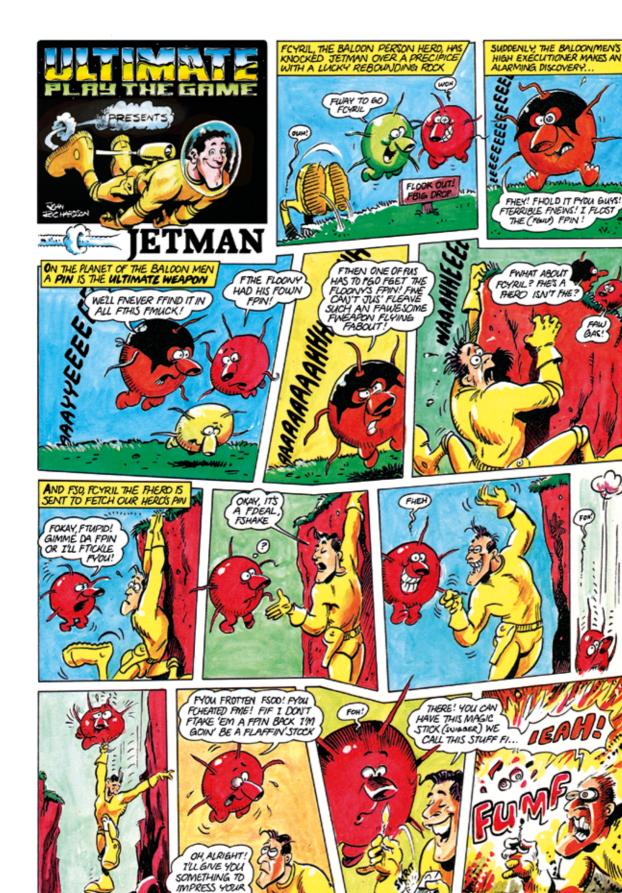




WOW! LOOKS LIKE WAUR HERO'S BOT HISSEL' A FEDERATION STARSHIP...

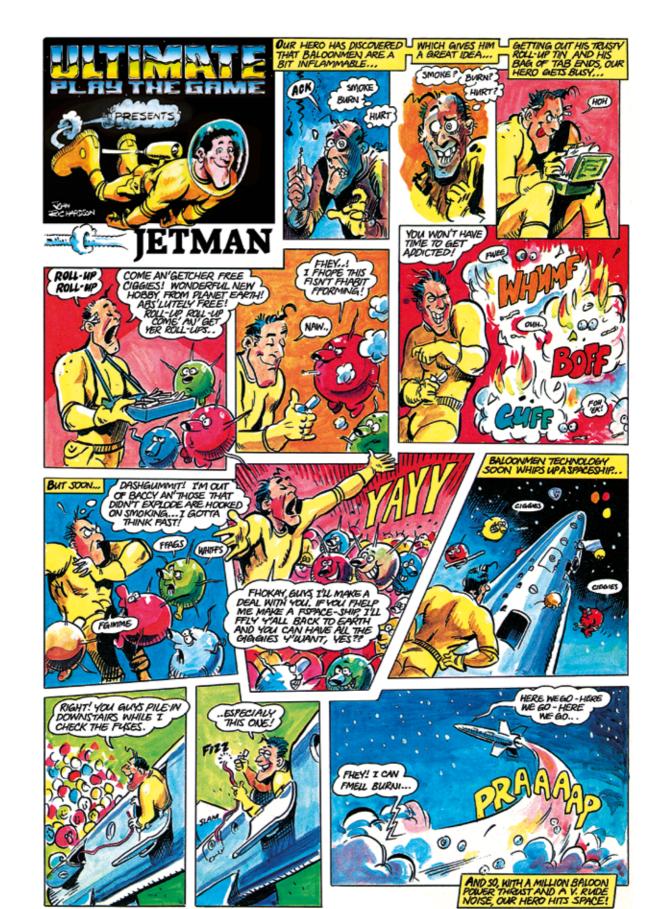






BALDONMEN DON'T SMOKE HEM!

MATES WITH













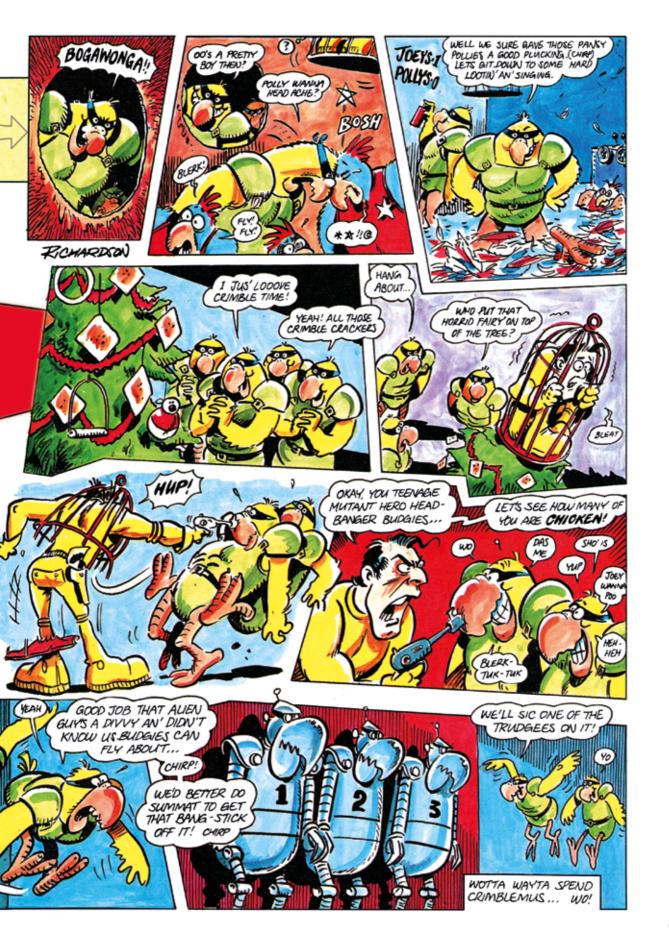








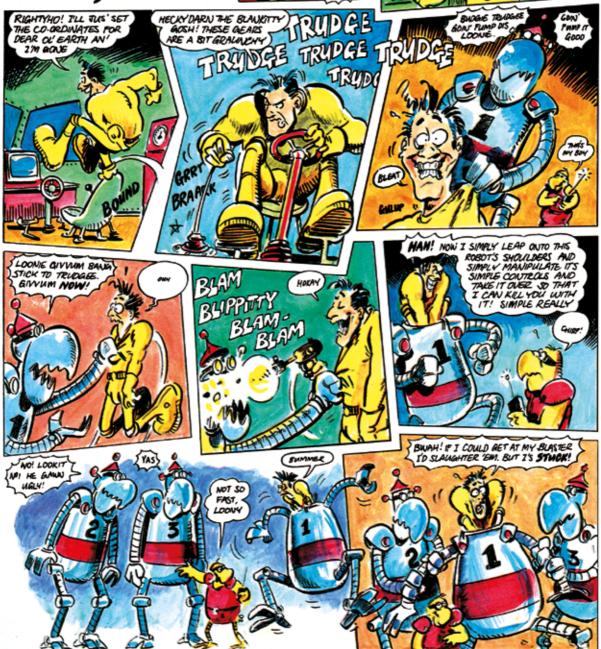


























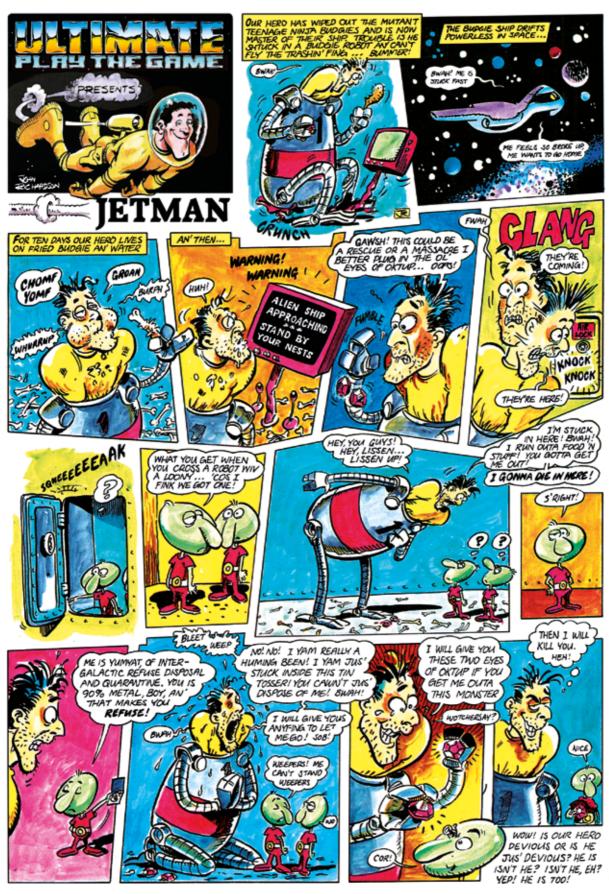


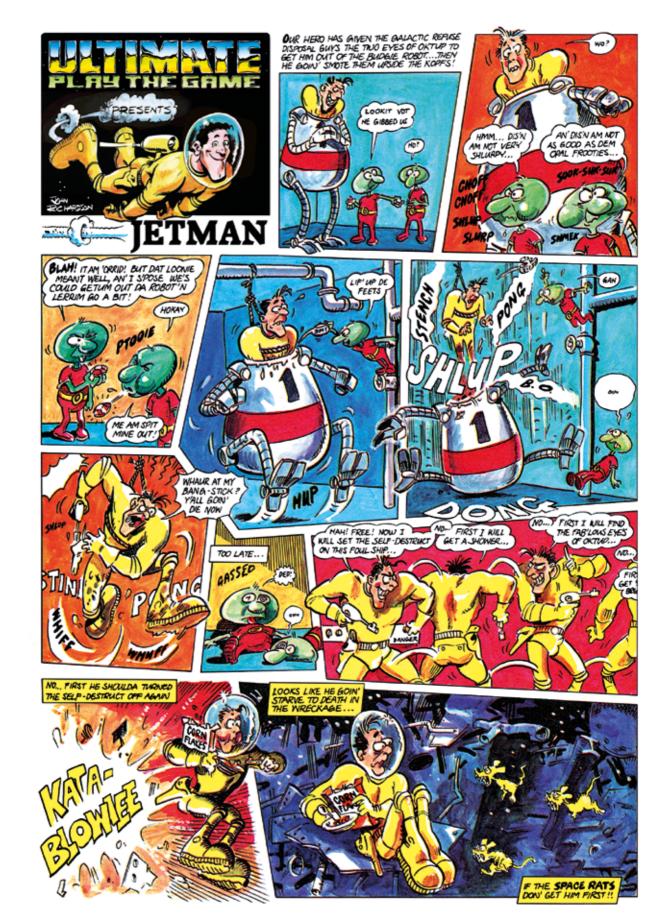






POTTY TIME ... NO!

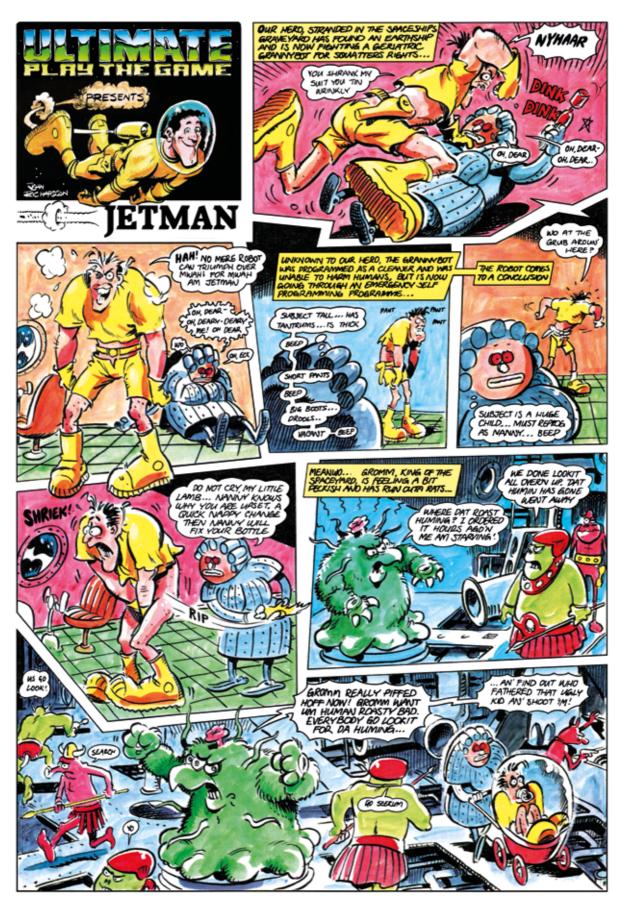




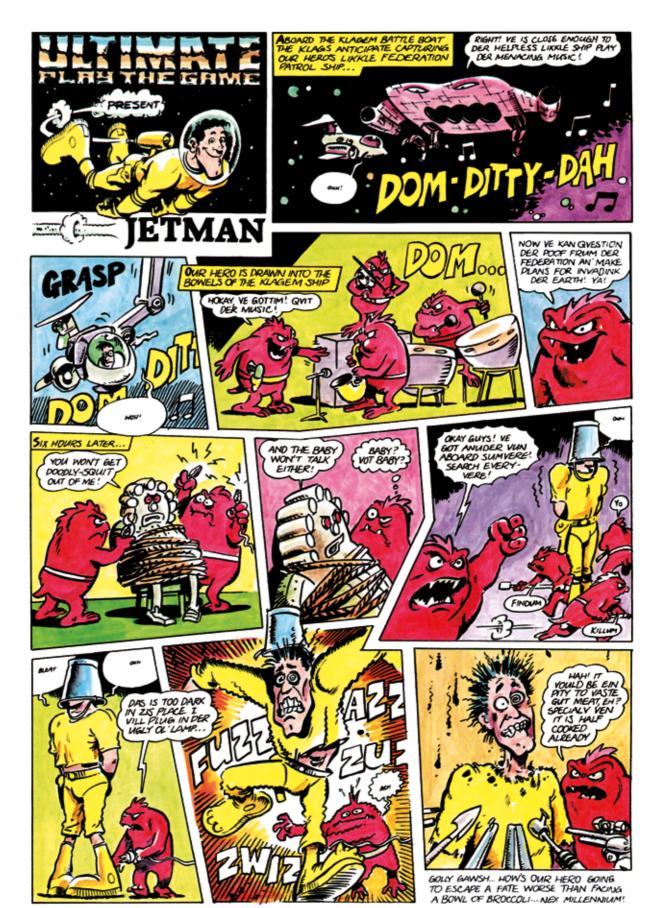


















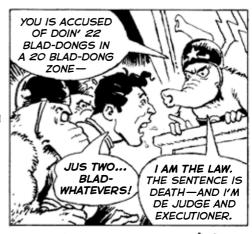








IN THE WAY OF ALL GOOD COMICS, OUR INTREPID BUT HALF-BAKED HERO ESCAPED THE KLAGEMS BROILING HIM BY THE SIMPLE EXPEDIENT OF AN **EDITORIAL DECISION** -ONLY TO END UP BREAKING THE LOCAL SPEED LIMIT ON THE PLANET OF THE ALIENS WITH SECRET WEAPONS UNDER THEIR KILTS...





WE INTERRUPT THIS HAPPY LIKKLE SCENE TO BRING A PUBLIC NUISANCE ADVISORY. REMEMBER THE KATABLOWIE ABOARD THE MUTANT TEENAGE NINJA BUDGIES' SHIP? YEP? WELL LOONY FORGOT ALL ABOUT THE EYE(S) OF OKTUP AND THEY GOT KER-THWUPPED INTO SPACE. ONE ENDED UP...









WITH HIS JETPAC STRAPPED TO HIS BROAD MUSCULAR BACK, WITH A BRAIN NO SMALLER THAN A MOON OF SATURN, LUNAR JETMAN MADE DEEEEEP SPACE SAFE FOR MANKIND RIGHT THROUGH THE 1980S.

NOW MAN AND ALIENKIND (ONES THAT GO TWHIP! AND BUMF IN THE NIGHT) CAN ENJOY THE COLLECTED LOONY ADVENTURES OF THE GREATEST MAN-MADE DISASTER EVER TO LEAVE EARTH.

